

REASONS

Humbly Offered by the Merchants Trading to *Italy, Spain and Portugal*, against Lowering the Duties on *French Wines* equal to those of *Italy, Spain and Portugal*.



I. **T**HAT the Trade from *Italy, Spain and Portugal* is very beneficial to this Nation, in taking off great Quantities of Corn, Fish, Lead, Leather, Tinn, all sorts of Woollen Goods, and other Manufactures.

II. **T**HAT formerly the King of *Portugal* prohibited the Importation of Cloth into his Kingdom, and set up a Fabrick for making of it there, which was found to be very prejudicial to this Nation. Which Prohibition by Treaty was taken off, on Consideration that *Portugal* Wine should pay one third less Duty than *French* Wine, upon bringing them into this Kingdom.

III. **T**HAT should the Duty on *French* Wines be lower'd to less than the Treaty with the King of *Portugal*, of Course when that Treaty is broke, the Prohibition of our Cloth again commences; and with humble Submission, in such case, we very much fear that the *French* King will take that Opportunity of introducing his Subject's Cloth into *Portugal*, which being of a thinner Manufacture than the Cloth of this Nation, may be fitter for that Country and their *Brazils*, by which Means we may for-ever lose the Cloth Trade in that Kingdom.

IV. **T**HAT the Ballance of Trade from *England* to *Italy, Spain and Portugal* (besides paying the Armys there in the late War) hath been annually very much in favour of this Kingdom; whereas on the other hand, in time of Peace, the Importation formerly from *France* did much exceed the Exportation from hence thither; by which it is evident, the Ballance of that Trade was in favour of the *French*.

V. **W**E hope it will be considered the Difference in Price the Wines are bought for in *Italy, Spain and Portugal*, and what they are bought for in *France*, together with the Difference in Freight, and then it will be found that *French* Wines may generally be imported more than one third cheaper than those of *Italy, Spain and Portugal*, which sheweth how prejudicial it would be, if they should be imported at, or near one and the same Duty, the Consequence of which will in effect be a Prohibition to the *Italian, Spanish and Portugal* Trade.

VI. **I**F *Italian, Spanish and Portugal* Wines are discourag'd from being imported, the Ships that carry the Corn and Fish to those Parts, will be obliged to come home dead freighted, which will be a Ruin to the *Newfoundland* Trade, and very prejudicial to our Navigation and Nursery of our Seamen.

VII. **T**HE Merchants depending on the Act of Parliament of the Seventh and Eighth of King *William*, have now imported great Quantities of *Italian, Spanish and Portugal* Wines, and are daily in Expectation of many more; but if *French* Wines should be permitted to come in upon near the same Duty, it will be a very great Prejudice, if not the Ruin, of many of the *Italian, Spanish and Portugal* Traders.

VIII. **W**HEREFORE it is humbly hoped, this Honourable House will take care of the *Italian, Spanish and Portugal* Trade in all its Parts, so advantageous to this Nation; and that if Three-pence per Quart Difference in the Duty will secure to us the Good-will of the *Portuguese*, and the Free Importation of our Cloth into that Kingdom, that we may not lose the Exportation of so Noble a Manufacture for such a Trifle.